

**PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 16, 2023
6:30 PM**

Nina Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Don Buchert, Marty Hura, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek

Other Village Personnel Present: Council President Tammy Meyer, Councilman Steve Thorn

Citizens/Others Present: Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation Liaison Phil Rath

- ❖ Motion to excuse Chuck Peterson made by Marty, seconded by Don; all ayes.
- ❖ Motion to approve July 19, 2023 minutes made by Cookie, seconded by Nina; all ayes.

Old Business:

- Phase 4 and 5 updates were shared:
 - The concrete pad and sidewalk are complete at Pavilion 1, and work is underway at the basketball courts.
 - The board applauded the quality of the Service Department's work.
 - Marty noted that the area will have to be reseeded and that the gravel parking lot abutting the sidewalk is too soft for a wheelchair.
 - The lot will likely settle and harden, but Nina acknowledged the importance of creating a long-term plan for true ADA accessibility with Village Administrator Ryan Klemm.
 - Nina recommended barriers at Pavilion 1 and at the north ballfield to prevent people from pulling their cars up to them, as their walkways were not designed for drivability.
 - Tammy remarked that Ryan hopes to move some of Phase 5 into Phase 4 because of the in-kind work that Service can provide.
 - Phil acknowledged that the village can expect to hear from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources regarding the Phase 5 grant application in October.
- At the Service Committee's meeting on August 1, Ryan shared that Service would be replacing and/or repairing seating at the south ballfield in September.
- A skid-mounted restroom was discussed, and images were shared:
 - Such a building might provide, roughly, a twenty-year solution, could accommodate four individual units (one of which would be ADA-accessible), could be removed/stored during the winter (extending its longevity and alleviating the need for winterization), and would cost roughly \$65,000.
 - Additional amenities and costs were considered, e.g., tapping into the village's water/sewer can be completed in-kind by Service; an awning could be installed over the entrances to protect users from the elements; if a more permanent structure is desired or the village wishes to keep restrooms open year-round, heating and/or insulation options are available.
 - Cookie questioned the structure's durability, and Steve questioned its appearance; facade and landscaping options were discussed.
 - Phil acknowledged that the DMRC is responsive to this option and recommends that the village start down this path.

- Regarding the park's entrance, the board agreed that it needs to be better defined and more attractive.
 - Cookie considered hydrangeas, small Japanese maples, spirea, boxwoods, black-eyed Susans, comb flowers, lavender, and grasses, and noted that we need to be mindful of root systems because of nearby lines/drains and that we should opt for plants that are slow-growing, low-maintenance, disease-resistant, and deer-resistant.
 - Marty noted that we need to be mindful of vehicle clearance and that we should opt for plants that can be easily replaced in case of accidents.
 - Cookie recommended reaching out to a nearby university, like Kent State, with a landscape architecture program, and enlisting the help of a fourth-year student.

New Business:

- Marty would like to see upgrades to the playground and, more specifically, he would like a tall, free-standing slide installed.
 - He shared that the park used to have such a slide, but issues with insurance prompted its removal.
- Marty asked if lights are on in the pavilions at night and wondered if they are welcoming vagrancy.
- The board discussed developing a way-finding program in tandem with the Shade Tree Committee.
 - Steve asked during prior meetings why the village has no signage to explain the history of Katie's Meadow or the meaning of the mural at the park, and this has reinvigorated discussions about a scavenger hunt and/or signpost program that would get people circulating the village and visiting significant natural and historical spots.
 - The fountain in front of Village Hall, the naming of Buchert Park, Katie's Meadow, the historical railroad, the time capsule, and the evolution of downtown/its main street were discussed.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. made by Nina, seconded by Marty; all ayes.